

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 SCA-01 PPT-02 L-03 SS-20 NSC-10

SPC-03 SAJ-01 EURE-00 CPR-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 PRS-01 NEA-10 DRC-01 /094 W

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P 151432Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6978

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 4190

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, PFOR, RO

SUBJECT: CALL ON VASILE GLIGA RE DUAL NATIONALS AND DIVIDED
FAMILIES LISTS

REF: STATE 223307

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFTEL INSTRUCTIONS I CALLED ON
ACTING FONMIN VASILE GLIGA (MACOVESCU IS IN BERLIN)
NOVEMBER 15 AND PRESENTED TWO FULL LISTS OF THOSE DUAL
NATIONALS (362 NAMES) AND QUALIFIED IMMIGRANTS (274 NAMES)
WHO WITHIN LAST THREE YEARS HAVE EXPRESSED DESIRE TO LEAVE
ROMANIA. LIST OF 108 DUAL NATIONALS ALSO WAS PROVIDED
FOR THEIR INFORMATION. I MENTIONED THAT EMIGRATION
QUESTION IS SURE TO BE RAISED DURING CEAUSESCU VISIT TO
WASHINGTON AND THAT LISTS BEING PRESENTED IN CONTEXT OF
TRIP PREPARATIONS.

2. I EXPLAINED THAT THE TWO LISTS, WHILE NOT COMPLETELY
EXHAUSTIVE, ENCOMPASSED BROAD ASPECTS OF QUESTION, WHICH
WE WANT ROMANIANS TO BE AWARE OF IN FULL AND UP-TO-DATE
MANNER. POINTING OUT THAT DUAL NATIONALS ARE AMERICAN
CITIZENS UNDER OUR LAW, I EXPRESSED OPINION THAT, WITH
GOODWILL AND COOPERATION ON ROMANIAN SIDE, DUAL NATIONAL
PROBLEM COULD BE RESOLVED ONCE AND FOR ALL, SINCE
NUMBERS OF SUCH PEOPLE ARE LIMITED AND CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH
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ORIGINALLY BROUGHT SITUATION ABOUT NO LONGER EXIST.

QUESTION OF QUALIFIED IMMIGRANTS, ON OTHER HAND, IS CONTINUING AND, TO SOME EXTENT, SELF-PERPETUATING ONE. NEVERTHELESS, WE BELIEVE THAT IN THE SAME CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT THIS PROBLEM COULD BE GREATLY REDUCED AS WELL. I STRESSED THAT QUALIFIED IMMIGRANT LIST COMPRISED THOSE WITH STRINGEST FAMILY TIES IN US, AND ALTHOUGH THESE PEOPLE ARE IN DIFFERENT CATEGORY FROM DUAL NATIONALS, WE URGE THAT, ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS, FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION ALSO BE GIVEN TO THEIR APPLICATIONS.

3. GLIGA RESPONDED BY OUTLINING ROMANIAN POSITION ALONG FAMILIAR LINES, NOTING THAT EMIGRATION POLICY IS AN INTERNAL MATTER FOR EACH COUNTRY. ALTHOUGH ROMANIA DOES NOT WANT TO ENCOURAGE EITHER EMIGRATION OR IMMIGRATION, GOR DOES RECOGNIZE EXISTENCE OF DUAL NATIONALITY PROBLEM (CONFLICT OF CITIZENSHIP LAWS, HE CALLED IT) AS HOLDOVER FROM COUNTRY'S PAST HISTORY AND TRIES TO ACT ON THIS QUESTION IN AS FORTHCOMING MANNER AS POSSIBLE. THE SAME ATTITUDE IS TAKEN TOWARD GENUINE CASES OF DIVIDED FAMILIES. THE OVERALL PROBLEM IS A DIFFICULT ONE, GLIGA SAID, BUT IT IS BEST APPROACHED IN A QUITE, NON-POLEMICAL WAY. HE PROMISED THAT BOTH LISTS WOULD BE STUDIED CAREFULLY BEFORE THE VISIT AND THE APPROPRIATE ACTIONS TAKEN.

4. GLIGA INDICATED THAT PLANNING FOR THE VISIT IS GOING FORWARD, ALTHOUGH CEAUSESCU'S TRIP TO GREECE IS RECEIVING GREATER ATTENTION FOR THE MOMENT. HE SAID THAT DUMITRU MIHAIL (DIRECTOR, MFA, DIRECTORATE III) WOULD BE GOING TO WASHINGTON NOVEMBER 25 OR 26 TO NEGOTIATE "SOLEMN DECLARATION AND JOINT COMMUNIQUE." HE ALSO SAID THAT SOMEONE WOULD BE LEAVING SOON TO WORK ON PROTOCOL QUESTIONS (PROBABLY EITHER DIRECTOR TUDOR JIANU OR HIS DEPUTY, GHEORGHE MATEI, OF MFA PROTOCOL DIRECTORATE). MIHAIL, JIANU AND MATEI ALL SPEAK FLUENT FRENCH BUT NO ENGLISH. (IN ADDITION WE HAVE LEARNED THE DEP MIN CONSTANTIN STANCIU AND DEP DIR DUMITRU BUTNARU OF FON TRADE MIN WILL LEAVE FOR WASHINGTON NOVEMBER 20 TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC MATTERS. STANCIU, WHO SPEAKS SOME ENGLISH, WILL RETURN BEFORE VISIT ITSELF WHILE BUTNARU, AN ENGLISH SPEAKER, WILL REMAIN THROUGH VISIT.)

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5. MEETING WITH GLIGA LASTED FORTY MINUTES AND TOOK PLACE IN RELAXED ATMOSPHERE. HIS REACTION TO THE LISTS WAS ABOUT AS RESPONSIVE AS COULD BE EXPECTED UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES. MARTENS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DUAL NATIONALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BUCHAR04190
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BUCHAREST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731132/aaaaaxpy.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 223307
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Aug-2001 by kellerpr>; APPROVED <29-Nov-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CALL ON VASILE GLIGA RE DUAL NATIONALS AND DIVIDED FAMILIES LISTS
TAGS: CVIS, PFOR, RO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005